



**PERFORM THE PROCEDURE OUTLINED IN THIS SERVICE INFORMATION ON ALL AFFECTED VEHICLES BEFORE CUSTOMER DELIVERY OR THE NEXT TIME THEY ARE IN THE SHOP FOR MAINTENANCE OR REPAIRS.**

Under the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, as amended, if there has been a recall campaign, dealers must assure that all new vehicles and new items of replacement equipment are free of safety defects and comply with all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards at the time of delivery to the consumer. This means that dealers may not deliver new motor vehicles or new items of replacement equipment to consumers unless the safety defect or noncompliance has been remedied before delivery.

**SUBJECT**

**Recall Campaign 03V-421: Airbag Control Module**

**MODEL**

**E39 (5 Series)**

**SITUATION**

In isolated cases, when placing the key in the ignition ON position, or when starting the vehicle, the vehicle's airbags, safety belt pretensioners, or the Battery Safety Terminal (BST) may activate.

Customers have been advised that if they experience this problem, or are in any way concerned with operating the vehicle, then they should contact an Authorized BMW center immediately to have the vehicle brought in for servicing and repair. In this case, the BMW center should get the necessary customer and vehicle information, then call Roadside Assistance on the owner's behalf to have the vehicle towed.

Cars affected by this recall campaign should be returned to the customer, cleaned inside and out and with a full tank of gas. Reimbursement information for the vehicle fueling costs can be found in the Warranty Information section of this bulletin.

**AFFECTED VEHICLES**

This recall involves E39 vehicles which were produced from January 1, 2001 to August 31, 2001.

In order to determine if a specific vehicle is affected by this recall, it will be necessary to utilize the "Service Menu" of the DCS (Dealer Communication System). Based on the response of the system, either proceed with the corrective action or take no further action.

The Chassis Number Ranges listed below are only for informational purposes and are not to be considered as the only deciding factor.

<b>Model</b>	<b>Chassis Number Range</b>
M5	BZ98432 – BZ99697
530i	CE90589 – CE91967

530Ia	CF05077 – CF14866
540i	GC96776 – GC98567
525iT	GD50124 – GD50261
525iTA	GD85129 – GD86220
525i	GF40575 – GF41556
525iA	GF59905 – GF59999
540iA	GM71263 – GM74050
540iAT	GN91714 – GN91975
525iA	GX20000 – GX27857

#### **CORRECTION**

Replace and code the airbag control unit

#### **PROCEDURE**

Replace the airbag control unit (Refer to repair instruction RA 65 77 519 "Replacing the airbag control unit").

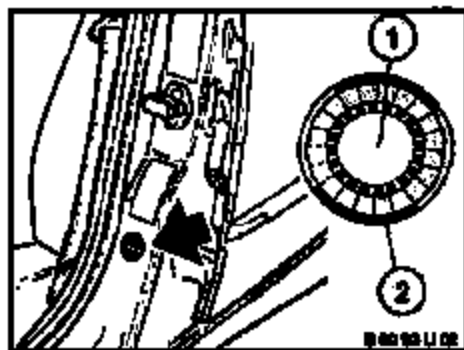
Using DISPlus/GT1:

- Select Coding/Programming / ZCS/FA Coding / E39 Series / Recoding / Airbag / Recode control unit.
- Answer "No" to the question "Is the original airbag control unit still fitted".
- Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the coding process.

#### **PARTS INFORMATION**

<b>Part Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
65 77 6 919 789	Airbag control unit	1

#### **LABEL INSTRUCTIONS**



This recall has been assigned code number 377. After the vehicle has been checked, and corrected if necessary, obtain a label (SD 92-215) and:

- emboss your BMW dealer warranty number in the middle of the label (1);
- punch out code number 377 printed on the label (2) and,
- affix the label to the B pillar as shown.

If the vehicle already has a label from a previous Service Action/Recall Campaign, affix the new label next to the old one. Do not affix one label on top of another one because a number from an underlying

label could appear in the punched-out hole of the new label.

#### **WARRANTY INFORMATION**

Reimbursement for this recall will be via Campaign Entry.

<b>Defect Code</b>	<b>00 65 77 01 00</b>		
<b>Work Package #1:</b>	Replace airbag control unit		
<b>Labor Operation:</b>	00 54 189		
<b>Labor Allowance:</b>	8 FRU (Sedan, excl M5)		
	9 FRU (M5, Sport Wagon)		
<b>Parts Allowance:</b>	65 77 6 919 789	Airbag Control Unit	Qty (1)

#### **REFUELING COST**

BMW of North America, LLC, will provide reimbursement to have the gas tank topped off once as required, for each vehicle affected by this recall campaign. Attach the appropriate receipt to the work order.

<b>Defect Code</b>	<b>85 99 00 66 NA</b>
<b>Labor Operation:</b>	Refuel vehicle
<b>Sublet:</b>	Actual cost to top off the fuel tank
<b>Sublet code:</b>	4

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

view PDF attachment [\*\*B720503Letter.\*\*](#)

view PDF attachment [\*\*B720503TREAD.\*\*](#)

view PDF attachment [\*\*B720503Q&A.\*\*](#)

# DRAFT

November xx, 2003

## Recall Campaign No. 03V-XXX: Airbag Control Module

Dear BMW Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

BMW AG has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2001 Model Year BMW 5 Series vehicles. Our records indicate that you are the owner of a potentially affected vehicle.

### **DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT**

The defect involves the airbag control module of your car. A microprocessor in this module could cause one or more airbags to deploy when placing the key in the ignition ON position, or when starting the vehicle.

In this case, unexpected deployment of the airbag(s) could cause serious injury if an occupant is too close to the deploying airbag(s).

In addition, the Battery Safety Terminal (BST) may also be activated. If that happens, the starter cable would become disconnected from the battery, and the engine could not be restarted.

### **PRECAUTIONS**

1. **CONTACT YOUR AUTHORIZED BMW CENTER IMMEDIATELY TO HAVE THE NECESSARY REPAIR PERFORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**
2. When placing the key in the ignition ON position, or when starting the vehicle, occupants should NOT be in close proximity to the driver or front passenger airbag, or the side airbags (including Head Protection System (HPS)). Drivers should not place themselves near the airbag cover located on the steering wheel, and front passengers should not place themselves near the airbag cover located on the instrument panel above the glove box. Occupants should be sitting upright against the back of their seat.
3. In addition, when placing the key in the ignition ON position, or when starting the vehicle, never let an occupant's head rest near any side airbag. Do not lean towards or against a door with a side airbag.
4. Refer to the appropriate safety information in your Owner's Manual, and observe the warnings contained in the airbag warning labels on your car.

5. If you experience this problem, or are in any way concerned with operating the vehicle, contact an Authorized BMW center immediately to have the vehicle brought in for servicing and repair.
6. If you are not the only driver of this vehicle, please advise all other drivers of this important information.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF REPAIR**

The repair will consist of replacing the airbag control module.

The repair will require approximately two hours. This work will be performed free of charge by your Authorized BMW center. Additional time may be required depending on the BMW center's scheduling and processing.

#### **OTHER INFORMATION**

If you are no longer the owner of this vehicle, we would appreciate you furnishing us with the name and address of the new owner, using the enclosed postage-paid card.

If you are a lessor of this vehicle, Federal Regulations require you to forward this notice to your lessee.

If you have already had this repair performed at your own expense, please see the attachment regarding possible eligibility for reimbursement.

**Should you have any questions about this campaign, please contact your Authorized BMW center.**

We appreciate your confidence in our product, and we wish to do everything we can to retain your confidence. Should you need additional assistance, you may contact BMW Customer Relations at 1-800-831-1117.

If the BMW center is unable to remedy the defect without charge or within a reasonable period of time, you may notify the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh St., S.W., Washington, DC 20590, or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236.

**BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, LLC**

**TREAD ACT CUSTOMER REIMBURSEMENT PLAN**  
**(BMW of North America, LLC)**

If you have paid for the repair described in the attached letter, and you would like to be considered for reimbursement, please contact your authorized BMW center. Expenses from repair facilities outside of the BMW center network will be considered; however, the procedure must meet BMW standards and use BMW Genuine Parts.

Your authorized BMW center will request a copy of your owner notification letter, as well as, a copy of your previously paid invoice, and then inspect the vehicle (if it is still in your possession) prior to submitting a claim on your behalf to BMW of North America, LLC for reimbursement.

Please note the following:

- Only a repair that is the subject of this safety recall is reimbursable. Consequential expenses such as towing, rental, accommodations, damage repairs, etc will not be reimbursed.
- When BMW Genuine Parts are used, the Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) will be considered as the guideline for reasonable charges.
- Expenses for repairs performed more than 10 days after the date of the last owner notification letter sent by BMW are not eligible for reimbursement.
- Taxes and hazardous waste disposal, where previously paid, are eligible for reimbursement.
- BMW will not reimburse for prior repairs that did not utilize BMW Genuine Parts.

We anticipate that your authorized BMW center will be able to answer any questions that you may have regarding your qualifications for reimbursement of a previous repair. If you qualify for such a reimbursement, they will also be able to advise you of the manner in which you could receive reimbursement.

We recommend that your authorized BMW center be your primary contact on this issue; however, our Customer Relations Department may be contacted at 1-800-631-1117 for any special assistance that you may require.

Alternatively, you may submit your request for reimbursement to the following address:

Customer Relations Department  
BMW of North America, LLC  
P.O. Box 1227  
Westwood, NJ 07675-1227